



# *APD NEWS*

Public Information Office: (512) 974-5017

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Austin Police Sgt. Hightower to be recognized with Department of Defense Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve "Patriot Award"**

The Texas Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) will present Austin Police Department Sergeant Robert Hightower with the Department of Defense "Patriot Award" at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, May 12, 2010 at the Austin Police Department (APD) Headquarters.

Sergeant Hightower is being recognized for his outstanding support and cooperation to Officer Matt Perritte, a U.S. Army Reserve Captain. Since Officer Perritte graduated from the APD Police Academy in 2009, Sgt. Hightower has ensured that he met his military training requirements, even when work schedules became increasingly demanding and the division was understaffed. Additionally, Sgt. Hightower has worked closely with Officer Perritte to plan for his deployment to Afghanistan. Sgt. Hightower has assured that Officer Perritte's position on the force will be available when he returns and that his fellow officers on the "Charlie 700" Shift will take care of his interests during his absence.

The Austin Police Department has been recognized as a model for other public safety organizations on the manner in which it takes care of its employees who serve in the Guard and Reserve.

Texas ESGR Committee Executive Director Dwain James said, "Thanks to supportive employers like the Austin Police Department who share their valuable employees with our military forces. America has maintained a strong defense posture at home and abroad. With 48% of our military forces in the Guard and Reserve our nation could not meet its home defense and worldwide peacekeeping obligations without the outstanding cooperation and support of our employers."

City of Austin Veteran's Consultant Allen Bergeron works closely with the Austin Police Department's military personnel and their management staff. "Through effective communication, training and a sound military reintegration process, Sgt. Hightower has proven to be a fine example of how other employers should



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support their military employees. Chief Acevedo and the entire Department truly go above and beyond to support their military employees and officers. It's the Department's and the City's way of saying thank you for their commitment to serve," Bergeron.

## **About ESGR**

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) is a Department of Defense agency established in 1972 that seeks to promote a culture in which all American employers support and value the military service of their employees. ESGR recognizes outstanding support, increases awareness of the law, and resolves conflicts through mediation. More information is available at [www.esgr.mil](http://www.esgr.mil) or [www.txesgr.net](http://www.txesgr.net).

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